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DE RUEHHE #0112 0471314  
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R 161314Z FEB 07  
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2987  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0184  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 1114  
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 5498  
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0556  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0380  
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0066  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0188  
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0075  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0108  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0174  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0367  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1379  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0353  
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1855

UNCLAS HELSINKI 000112

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PARM](#) [AORC](#) [EIND](#) [OPCW](#) [CWC](#) [CBW](#) [IR](#) [FI](#)  
SUBJECT: FINNISH RESPONSE - CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION  
(CWC) - SEEKING SUPPORT TO BLOCK IRAN BECOMING EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL CHAIR

REF: SECSTATE 17200

1. (U) PolChief delivered subject demarche Feb. 15 to Jani Raappana, Counselor for Chemical and Biological Disarmament in the MFA's Unit for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

2. (SBU) Although Finland has received no "official" word that Iran intends to put forward a candidate for the CWC chairmanship, Raappana said the GOF opposes Iran's occupying that position and shares our concerns. For now, he said, Finland hopes the CWC's Asia Group can sort out the matter internally without the involvement of the WEOG, and he welcomed US behind-the-scenes efforts to urge the Asians put forward a consensus candidate as an alternative to the Iranian.

3. (SBU) Finland has no official position yet as to what actions it would take if the Asia group cannot find consensus. However, Raappana said that the EU countries on the CWC would likely seek a unified position. He added that the Europe Group has split in the past on chemical weapons issues and suggested that if it cannot reach a unified position, Finland would be likely to join the group that would vote against Iran's bid.

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